

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Culbertson-Harbison Farm

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number Hyesville Road, South of Hyesville _____ not for publication

city, town Greene Township _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Franklin code 055

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. John W. Myers, Jr.

street & number Rt. #2, Nyesville Road

city, town Chambersburg _____ vicinity of _____ state Pennsylvania 17201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Courthouse

street & number Memorial Square

city, town Chambersburg _____ state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Pennsylvania Inventory
title of Historic Places _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 12/79 _____ federal state county _____ local _____

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg _____ state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Culbertson-Harbison Farm is located on the west side of the Nyesville Road, about 1 1/2 miles from Green Village of Greene Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. The buildings stand along the edge of a high bluff and face southeast.

The house is a two story, five bay structure built of coursed native limestone. At the front elevation stones are carefully cut with some indication of an effort on the part of the mason to suggest Flemish bonding. Above the openings are regular flat arches of cut upright stones. Openings have massive framing with mortise and tenoned joints secured with pegs.

A two story, three bay stone addition extends to the northeast. It, too, is built of coursed limestone, with larger blocks than those used for the main house. Variation in the masonry of the end wall indicates that this addition may have been partially rebuilt. The original masonry of the addition suggests a construction date in the 1820-1840 period while that of the main structure is indicative of a 1790-1810 building date.

Windows have two over two pane sashes which are late 19th century replacements of the original window sashes. First story windows have pairs of paneled shutters while those at the second story have movable louvers. The lower level shutters are painted white while those at the upper story are a medium green. In painting the shutters, efforts were made to duplicate the original colors.

The main entrance is located in the central bay of the front elevation. The entrance is framed similarly to the windows and includes a door which has had a large glass pane inserted. There is also a transom with a single pane having rounded ends.

The roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal over earlier wood shingles. It has been extended beyond the end walls. Brick chimneys are located inside the end walls and at the interior of the addition.

Across the front of the house is a three bay Victorian period porch with elaborate woodwork trim. It is supported by chamfered square posts with multiple brackets. The frieze area has repeated zig zag trims. At the back of the house are two matched single bay entrance porches, also of Victorian vintage, although slightly more massive in appearance than the front porch.

Attached to the stone addition is a one story late 19th century frame kitchen addition. It has plain lapped wooden siding and openings with pedimented architraves. Attached to the frame kitchen is a brick smoke house topped with a bracketed four sided cupola.

INTERIOR

The interior of the house at the first story is divided into four rooms, two on each side of a central entrance and stair hall. A front and rear entrance each open into the hallway from the outside. The two doors have had their upper panels replaced with glass. They retain their original long wrought iron strap hinges.

The staircase has three runs. It has a delicate turned newel supporting a molded hand rail with a swan's neck curve at the top. Rectangular balusters have reeded ends. The ends of the steps are decorated with carved scroll trim.

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Door architraves in the hallway and throughout the house have repeated moldings endings with a large cavetto. Doors have six raised panels with quirked ogee molding.

The south room at the first floor is the most elaborate in the house. The most prominent feature is the mantelpiece which has a variety of federal style motifs. The inner edge of the mantelpiece is reeded with the reeding curving inward to meet the outer surface of the firebox. Above the reeding is a band of gouge work swags. Centered in the main open area or frieze is a raised carved oval tablet following a sunburst design. On either side of the oval tablet are small gouged floral or cross figures and at the ends of the frieze against small pilasters are half oval tablets which disappear into the pilasters. Smaller raised ovals following the same design but set perpendicular to the larger tablets are on the face of the pilasters. Above the frieze is another band of reeding above which are courses of molding forming the mantel shelf. The firebox is completely plastered.

Beside the fireplace is a set of cupboards. Doors each have three panels with quirked ogee trim. The cupboard has an architrave similar to that elsewhere in the house. Painted border trim along the upper edge of the ceiling and a painted central medallion are reproduced from the original in reds and blues. Chair rail in this room has multiple moldings and resembles the door architraves.

On the opposite side of the hallway in the east corner of the house is a room with similar woodwork to that in the south room, but much more simple. The mantelpiece has the same basic moldings but without the reedings and raised panels. Small gouged oval figures decorate the tops of the pilasters. Other woodwork detail is similar to that already described.

The west room, now is and probably originally was a kitchen and features a fireplace centered in the wall with cupboards on each side. The fireplace is larger than those in the other rooms and has an architrave which matches the door and window architraves already described. Above the architrave are fluted pilasters and a band of small flutes and gouge work below the mantel shelf. Like the other examples in the house, this fireplace has a plastered firebox.

In the stone addition, all woodwork dates from the 1890-1910 period although the stone shell appears to be older.

The second floor room arrangement is slightly different from that of the first floor. The south three bays are part of a large room or "ball room" with a fireplace in the end wall. The mantelpiece is similar in form to that in the kitchen below with a molded architrave and fluted pilasters. A band of reeding crosses the top below the mantel shelf.

Other rooms on the second floor follow the basic plan of the first floor with woodwork being consistent throughout the house.

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OTHER BUILDINGS

Just southwest of the house is a large frame bank barn topped with three hexagonal ventilator cupolas. Across the sides and ends of the barn are louvered vents with pedimented tops. At intervals double sets of doors open from the front of the barn. This structure is said to be one of the largest barns in Franklin County, and appears to date from the late 19th century.

In addition to the barn, there are several frame agricultural outbuildings which feature the decorative hexagonal cupolas.

Other domestic outbuildings include a small frame privy with a wood shingle roof and a decorative four sided cupola.

All of the buildings are in excellent condition, and remain today with relatively few alterations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1798-1800

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Culbertson-Harbison Farm is significant for its architecture and for its association with a prominent local family who were active in both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.

Architecturally, the house is important as an example of the Federal style as interpreted in country houses of Pennsylvania. This stylistic influence is most observable in the interior woodwork which utilizes oval motifs and extensive reeding as well as delicate moldings and turnings. Other architectural elements are reminiscent of an earlier period, such as the massive front and rear doors with their long wrought iron strap hinges.

Both architectural and documentary history suggest that this house was built about the turn of the 19th century. Dating factors associated with the building itself include the Federal style woodwork already mentioned and the type of stone masonry which utilizes regularly sized coursed blocks at the front elevation and flat arches of upright stones above the openings. This type of masonry is associated with stone buildings of the 1790-1810 period in rural Pennsylvania. Exterior window and door framing is also typical of this period. According to the U.S. Direct Tax of 1798 for Greene Township, Samuel Culbertson who owned the property at the time was assessed for a stone house, 44' X 34', two stories high with 18 windows and 295 lights. The assessor had scrawled in the column marked "claims for exemption", that the house was "not finished." The not finished notation supports the architectural evidence that the house was constructed between 1798 and about 1800.

It is important to note that there were several Culbertson families who settled on adjoining farms along this slate ridge in the middle of the Cumberland Valley. The families were large and names were repeated among the various families from generation to generation. This makes the research of these people and their property quite confusing and difficult. The area where the 18th century Culbertson farms are located was known and is known to this day as "Culbertson's Row." The families came there in the second quarter of the 18th century from County Antrim in the north of Ireland where they also lived on "Culbertson's Row."

This farm was from the time of its original patent in the Culbertson family until December of 1803. The property was owned by Samuel Culbertson who made his will in October of 1789. He stipulated that upon his death, his real estate was to be offered at public sale. On December 22, 1803, Samuel Culbertson's surviving executors, Colonel Samuel Culbertson and Colonel Joseph Culbertson, sold the farm containing then 449 acres and 35 perches to Adam Harbison for £ 4719 and 15 shillings. (Deed book 8, page 82). Apparently by 1803, Samuel Culbertson had died recently. Samuel Culbertson who owned this property was probably the same Samuel Culbertson who was one of the original settlers of the Row. He was active in the French and Indian War and served as a Sergeant-Major in the battalion led by Hugh Mercer during the Forbes Expedition against Fort Duquesne in 1758. The Colonels Samuel and Joseph, his executors, were Revolutionary War officers.

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It is actually the Harbison family, also Scots-Irish, who were associated with the House for the longest period of time. The farm was owned by that family from 1803 to 1886. Adam Harbison made his will on January 22, 1824 and it was probated on February 23 of that year (Will book C, page 703). In this document he stipulates that Martha, his wife, was to have occupancy of rooms on the first and second stories in the west end of the mansion house and also the privilege of the kitchen for cooking. Their son, Samuel, was to provide her with stove wood. Samuel received under terms of the will the entire home plantation.

From Samuel Harbison the farm descended to his grandson Samuel McElhare who was his daughter, Maria's son.

Samuel McElhare experienced severe financial reverses and, finally, on April 1, 1886, the farm containing at this point 225 acres, was sold at public sale for \$17,723.00 to satisfy his debts. The purchaser was John Hoffer. (Deed book 76, page 119). Hoffer acquired additional adjoining parcels during the late 19th century. It is probably he who was responsible for the late 19th century structure on the property, the barn and a number of the outbuildings.

The farm remained in the Hoffer family until 1921 when Bertha E. Detwiler, Mary E. Hoffer and John Hoffer sold it to J. Clarke Elliott. (203/49).

On June 21, 1948, Ina Elliott, widow, sold the farm to John W. Myers and Bertha D. Myers. (382/607). It was purchased by the present owners in January, 1965. (582/78).

The highest point in the Cumberland Valley is said to be on the slate ridge behind the house.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Franklin County Land Records.
Franklin County Probate Records
U.S. Direct Tax, 1798.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5

Quadrangle name Roxbury, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	2	7	5	6	4	0	4	4	3	2	7	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The section of this farm being nominated includes approximately five acres containing the buildings. Beginning at a point on the West side of the Nyesville Road, North of the buildings near the top of the hill and leading in a Southwesterly direction following

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

organization Preservation Associates, Inc. date November 1979

street & number 109 West Main Street, Box 202 telephone 301-432-5466

city or town Sharpsburg state Maryland 21782

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For HCERS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Acreege of nominated property 5

Quadrangle name Roxbury, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	2	7	5	6	4	10	4	4	3	2	7	8	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

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State Historic Preservation Officer signature

ED WEINTRUAB, Director

title Office of Historic Preservation

date 3/10/80

For HCRS use only

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date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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BOOKS, ARTICLES

Conrad, W. P. From Terror to Freedom in the Cumberland Valley. Chambersburg,
Pa.: Robson & Kaye, Inc. 1976.

Orr, John G. "Culbertson's Row." Kittochtinny Historical Society Papers.
Chambersburg, Pa.: Kittochtinny Historical Society, 1899.

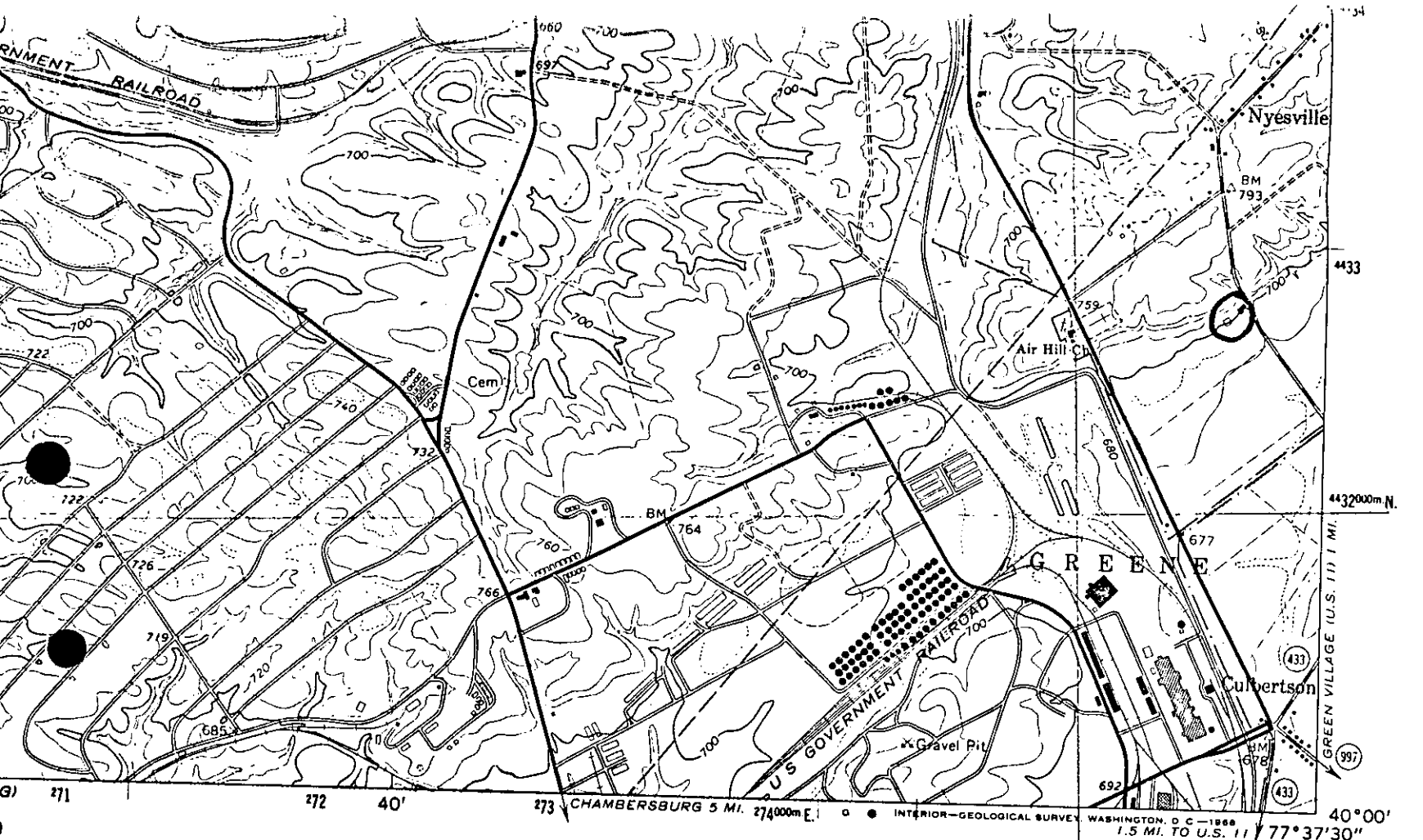
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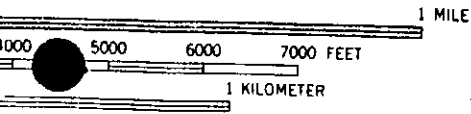
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parallel to the hilltop to a point West of the barn; then Southeast in a straight line to a point Southwest of the barn; then Northeast to the West side of the Nyesville Road; and following the margin of the road in a Northwesterly direction to the place of beginning.

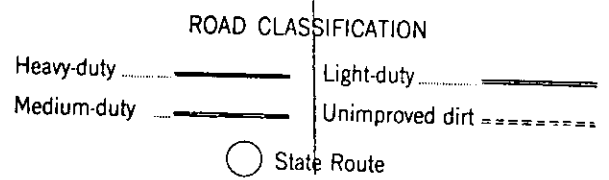
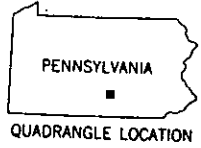


Culbertson-Harhison Farm
 Franklin County
 Zone 18 E275640 N4432780



0 FEET
 100 FEET
 200 FEET
 300 FEET
 400 FEET
 500 FEET
 600 FEET
 700 FEET
 800 FEET
 900 FEET
 1000 FEET

ACCURACY STANDARDS
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROXBURY, PA.
 SW/4 SHIPPENSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE
 N4000—W7737.5/7.5

1966

AMS 5464 II SW—SERIES V831

(SCOTLAND)
 9463 1 NE